From the President:

Well, 1 July seems a long time ago since I assumed the presidency of our fellowship as well as the presidency of Rotary Courtenay Place in Wellington, New Zealand. As this is the first newsletter of my term, I thought I'd focus on a few themes: membership, engagement and the direction of our fellowship.

The São Paulo convention successfully enrolled five new members and received great support from LABRE - the Brazilian amateur radio league. Most importantly, our fellowship was represented throughout the convention and this generated some inter-fellowship leads where amateur radio may play a part in extending the effectiveness of Rotary.

Rotary fellowships are most successful when there is a high level of engagement between members. Participation in nets, the constructive use of amateur radio as an adjunct to Rotary projects and member to member communication through scheduled QSO’s are all excellent ways of improving acquaintances through the fellowship of ROAR. I’m particularly keen to see new members welcomed into our fellowship through interaction with existing members. We should do the same as if these new members recently joined our Rotary club - make them welcome, go out of your way to engage with them whether it be via HF, VHF or even an email to start the process of inclusion. Please have another look at the new members section of the newsletter and play your part in making them welcome.

Rotary had experienced a dip in traditional club memberships but this trend is now reversing. A sober reflection on the relevance of Rotary clubs - “seeing ourselves as others see us” has certainly helped. IFROAR is no different and we too need to reflect on the vibrancy of our regions and make improvements because this is where members can be most effective. I encourage the leadership of our regions to be active in establishing and promoting initiatives that add value to our members and to Rotary.

What I would also like to see are expressions of interest from members to take on fellowship tasks - to be a focal point for particular fellowship themes and encourage greater participation amongst our members.

There are also some fellowship tasks that simply can’t be left to the President, Secretary and Treasurer to sort out on behalf of everyone else. We are in urgent need of somebody to help with membership communications and I’d welcome expressions of interest to help publish our newsletters on a much more regular basis. Not only that, but we also need members to contribute copy for publication!

Well, that is quite a list of intentions from your President, but I’ve no doubt that progress will be made - given a bit of persistence from me and goodwill from everyone!

73’s from John (ZL2JPM), President IFROAR
RIBI AGM, May 2015:

For the past 25 years the members of ROAR in RIBI have held an AGM weekend in May. At the AGM we find a “volunteer” to organise the following year at a hotel near his home.

Wives are included. It is always a very happy weekend and everyone treats it like a second Rotary and Inner Wheel Club.

Attendees meet on a Friday afternoon at the chosen venue and depart on the Sunday. On the Saturday the organiser finds an interesting place to visit, including lunch and we end up back at the hotel for our AGM.

AGMs have been held in all corners of England and Wales: Cambridge University Colleges, John Constable Country, Cardiff Docks, and Dartmouth Naval College - and more!

There is also a communal dinner each evening. We have had 46 people attending, but numbers are steadily reducing. Last year it was 28 and this year we only had 19. Unfortunately, several members or their wives had died recently, and we are finding it hard to recruit new members.

Our local weekly net is every Sunday morning on 80m. (Just after the 20m net). Ten years ago there were often 20 or more taking part, but recently there have been less than 10. A sign of the times I guess.

In the past we have attended Rotary Conferences. We organised Special Event Stations at the RI Conventions in Barcelona in 2002 and Birmingham in 2009. That was before the days of Remote Stations. Our Spanish friends erected the aerials in Barcelona, and several of us put up a 3 element beam at Birmingham Conference Centre in the wettest day of that summer!

73’s from Brian (G3LUW) RIBI Regional Vice-President

Milestones in Japan:

ROAR-Japan celebrated a significant milestone on 8th Oct. ’15 on 7.075MHz. It was their 11,000th morning call.

Unfortunately the local conditions were not good that day because of a typhoon but several stations worked the Key station and the milestone was achieved. The persistency of ROAR Japan's members is exemplary!

The morning call is held every morning on 7.075MHz (except Sunday and National Holidays) from 7:30~8:15am. This has been continuous for 37 years.

For the rest of us – it’s never too late to start!
New ROAR Members since 1 July 2015:

Please welcome

Jim Tevepau:
WA4SAK
tevepauj@bellsouth.net
Rotary Club of Greater Huntsville

Deborah Wright:
KE7NCF
DEBWRIGHT@gmail.com
Rotary Club of Everett

William G Schauff:
PY2GN
William.Schauff@gmail.com
Rotary Club of Pardinho

Gustavo Defaria Franco:
PT2ADM
pt2adm@pobox.com
Rotary Club of Brasilia Laho Norte

Francisco Ricardo Favilla:
PT2RY
Fr.favilla@terra.com.br
Rotary Club of Asa Norte

Samuel Guccione:
K3BY
Gucci1832@att.net
Rotary Club of GulfPort

Greg James:
VK2SM
Greg.james48@bigpond.com
Rotary Club of Gosford North

Two band vertical for small spaces:
Past President Pertti Kause (EA7GSU)

I have in previous years experimented with unipole antennas for mobile use using idea by G4AKC. The principle is to have a whip of correct electrical length and then tune the counter poise. In my case the counter poise was the car body. I later applied the same idea at home for a 40/80m GP antenna with fixed tuned circuits to connect the braid to the counter poise.

The solution is following:
The vertical part of the antenna is 10.2 meters aluminum pipe for 40m band. Usually the counter poise is a net of radials or a good earth connection. Many hams have neither of them. I took few meters of metal fencing material, spread it around the vertical on the ground, installed a serial tuning circuit between the braid of the coaxial cable and the net and it tuned nicely.

If I top load the 40m GP with extension circuit (coil on top of the GP and sufficiently aluminum pipe above it)
I can bring it to resonance on 80m. If I make another serial circuit parallel to the existing 40m counter poise tuning unit, the system will work on two bands without any band switching.

The top load coil consists of 35 turns of 1mm enamel wire and 5.5m of aluminum pipe plus 4 x 1meter aluminum rods in cross above the coil.

The construction resonated on upper end of 40m phone band and on 80m CW band just like wanted. For the counter poise tuning unit I found suitable fixed values with a roller and a bc tuning capacitor (2 x 500pF). They had no noticeable influence on each other. The relation L/C was not critical if the counter poise tuning circuits were hostile to the other frequency (large L/C). The counter poise area was approximately. 10/15 sq. m

The antenna has worked well, on 40m I participated few times to VK/ZL net. On 80m I have a good dipole to compare. Depending on skip, there was hardly any difference. My station is Yaesu 1000, no PA.

The advantage of the construction is the small area needed. I found it reasonable easy to tune and set up.

73’s Pertti (EA7GSU)

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**2014 ROAR President’s visit to Japan**

**Bill Main VK4ZD & Diane VK4DI**

At 2.30am on Tuesday 28th of October Diane and I left our daughter’s home in Ipswich (just outside of Brisbane) to go to Brisbane Airport. We left our car at a paid undercover car park and they took us to the airport. By 4am we had handed over our luggage at the QANTAS counter and received boarding passes for our flight to Sydney and for our JAL flight from Sydney to Narita (Tokyo).

We were assured that our luggage would be automatically transferred to the JAL flight in Sydney. At 5am our flight departed on time and we arrived in Sydney 90 minutes later.

2 hours later we were in the air bound for Japan on a JAL Dreamliner.

The flight was uneventful and we arrived at Narita Airport on time at 5pm Japan time.

By 5.45pm we had collected our luggage and had met a smiling Tim Masuda who was waiting, as promised, to meet us at the airport.

He had driven his Lexus to the airport to pick us up and take us to our hotel in Ueno (near Akihabara). The drive took a little longer than usual due to an accident on the tollway which slowed down the traffic flow somewhat.

The ambulance attending the accident made its way past us with the traffic parting as if by magic to allow it through.

Tim delivered us safely to the Hotel where the parking attendant ensured that Tim’s car was placed in the car-lift and delivered to its allocated car park some floors up.

After getting our luggage to our room we then came back downstairs to the hotel’s restaurant where we joined Tim
for our first meal in Japan - some excellent Italian fare washed down with Japanese beer.

The plan for tomorrow (Wednesday) was to meet Tim and Shun downstairs at 11am. This left us time to catch up on our work emails from the last 2 days.

The room was very comfortable and we slept well.

As arranged, we met Tim and Shun and did a preliminary sweep of Akihabara (we walked from the hotel) finding a mobile vhf antenna and motorised lowering (vertical to horizontal) base which interested us a great deal.

We were also tempted by a cw paddle which I was assured by Shun would be not as good as a model he knew of elsewhere.

I also purchased a new foot switch which was much quieter and more precise than my existing klunker.

In order to save time we then grabbed a taxi back to the hotel so that we could meet the group of ROAR members who would accompany us to the SKY TREE which Tim had pre-booked for all of us as a group.

We made our way in 2 cars (Shun had brought his beautifully refurbished VW beetle 1300cc) and got to the SKY TREE on time.

The view from this very tall building was breathtaking and at the end of the day we viewed a beautiful sunset with Mount Fuji in the distance backed by the colours of the sunset.

After making our way back to the hotel we made ready for the party that evening.

When we arrived at the restaurant there were 9 already present. We were heartily welcomed.

Tim did the introductions and we also exchanged Rotary Club banners.

The ROAR members presented us with many beautiful gifts.

After I produced a short speech in Japanese, the conclusion was greeted with great enthusiasm; perhaps because at last I had finished or maybe because I had actually succeeded in doing it acceptably well.

In amongst all of the hilarity and multiple conversations we had many excellent courses of food, beer, wine and saki.

At around 9.15pm most of the members departed leaving us with Shibata san who continued to ply us with excellent beer and wine until, at about 10:10pm we were very nicely asked to leave by the restaurant manager who had closed the restaurant at 10.00pm.

It must be said that we did encourage the manager to join us in a glass of wine which he accepted with a smile after a short exchange.

On Friday 31st October we travelled by train to Kofu to be met by 2 very excited friends. It must have been a sight; 2 Aussies being hugged very hard by 2 very excited Japanese! Kane JA1UZQ and his lovely daughter Yumi. We have been talking to Kane for over 25 years, and at one stage we hosted Yumi in Kalgoorlie as she was traveling around Australia.

We were driven to Kane's home where we were met by his charming wife and Yumi's two daughters. We admired Kane's radio station and his multitude of magnetic loop antennae. We then drove to Yumi's home to drop the children off to be looked after by her mother in law, as her husband was working late.

Next stop was our Hotel: Hotel Kikori which was very traditional Japanese in style. Even Kane was impressed.

We experienced our first traditional Japanese meal which was served in a separate room for just the 2 of us. Our hostess (she was more than just a server) was very gracious and explained the foods and the order in which to eat.
We then retired to sleep soundly. The next morning we ventured down to breakfast to see we were the only non-Japanese there. Once again we had our own table and personal service. The whole experience was amazing. Kane & Yumi collected us after breakfast, and we finally met her husband who had to take the daughters to a school function.

Our next experience was to see the Megalev train test facility in Yamanashi. Watching a train whizz by at 500kph is mind-blowing. We had lunch at a roadside restaurant and then proceeded to Shizuoka Station to pick up the Shinkansen to Kyoto.

Tim Masuda was on the train and in the same coach as us so we had great company on the Bullet train. We stayed at the Kyoto Traveller's Inn in Kyoto, which was a fairly basic affair. We had a lovely shabu-shabu meal with Tim at a restaurant within walking distance of our hotel. Tim then went to Osaka overnight.

On Sunday Nov 2nd Tim met us at the train station where we caught a tourist bus and did a tour of Kyoto in the rain. We walked through temples and gardens until we found a great little noodle restaurant in a side street and enjoyed lunch with Tim.

That evening we were feted by more ROAR-J members with the then ROAR-J president Hideki Ohno presiding over the meeting. The location of the meeting was at a multi storey building owned by one of the members. The floor where the function was held boasted a full kitchen for the serving staff and a stage for the Geisha and Maiko to perform on. The multi course meal and accompanying Saki was magnificent. The food was outstanding in taste and presentation.

The first performance was from the Geisha, and she was so graceful and elegant on stage. Once off the stage she was a vibrant, animated and still very gracious lady.

We were then entertained by the Maiko (trainee Geisha) first. This lovely young lady had spent 4 years in New Zealand and so had impeccable English.

My Japanese speech was repeated with some minor changes and this time I was more nervous than in Tokyo. Many more banners were exchanged and some more gifts. We were presented with a number of tins of Kyoto's famous Yatsuhashi Cinnamon biscuits to bring back home. We believe the owner of the factory was one of the hosts of the event.

Some of the actions of the ROAR-J members were
hilarious. So much so that at one stage Diane was laughing so much that she had tears coming down her face.

Kenichi’s brother is co-owner of the shack and so he was watching us on Skype vision from his home!

We then went back to Osaka to meet with a friend of Kenichi’s who is an English speaking Tour Guide. We shared breakfast and then went to some Ham Radio shops. We purchased a Hi-Mound single paddle key and Diane's comment was "Happy Birthday".

Kenichi & Hatsuyo then took us to Osaka Castle where we were met by a volunteer guide who took us around the castle grounds and explained the history of the castle. It is an amazing feat of engineering. There is a restaurant in the old military barracks so we shared a very enjoyable meal before heading into the castle proper. The historical exhibits and the 360 degree views are well worth the time taken. Naturally the grounds are exquisitely maintained. Bill & Kenichi had to have their photo taken standing next to a “Billiken” statue.

Our evening concluded with a relaxing sushi train meal. Wed Nov 5th 2014 saw us depart Osaka from Shin-Osaka station to Shinagawa Station on the Shinkansen. We then hopped onto the Narita express to the airport to catch our flight home. Whilst at the airport we received calls from both Tim & Shun to make sure all was OK with us. Kane & Yumi also SMS’d us to say farewell.

Our trip to Japan was one of the best trips we have made. The friendliness and kindness shown to us was something we will always treasure. Special Thanks to Tim Masuda, Shunichi Fuji, Kenichi Noguchi and Kaneaki Miyamoto for their invaluable assistance from the time we planned to make the trip.
OU0POLIO : Denmark

Frank Garbelmann SP2BA instigated a 12 month special event call sign for Rotary’s 110th Birthday and to celebrate the continuing work to eradicate Polio worldwide.

With this activity we seek to remember Paul P. Harris and the early founders of Rotary International.

ANZO Report

The ANZO Chapter of ROAR continues to operate weekly nets on both 40 metres (7110Khz) and 20 metres (14295.2 KHz). The 40m net continues to be small with regulars being Bill VK4ZD, Diane VK4DI, Peter VK3KCD, Noel VK2IWT, Brian VK2BX, John ZL2JPM, Doug ZL1BFS, Rob ZL1RD and Phil VK2MCB.

The 20m net with Europe continues its success with 10 to 15 members participating on a regular basis. Also, the 20m net on Tuesdays continues with a smaller group.

Winter in the Southern Hemisphere proved problematic for our ZLs with the band closing for New Zealand just as our western European friends were thinking of getting out of bed. This was frustrating for John, Doug and Rob. Fortunately, propagation for the VK’s during the southern hemisphere winter was better with most weekends providing good or at least adequate conditions for contact with most of our European friends. Thankfully, conditions are now improving.

VK ROAR members got together face to face twice in the year to date. On 22 February 2015, at the Wyong Field Day, Bill VK4ZD, Diane VK4DI, Noel VK2IWT, Martha VK2IWS, Phil VK2MCB and Bryce VK2FADS launched the Special Event Call VI110ROTARY which operated on 40, 20 and 15 metres until 31 March 2015. The special event celebrated the foundation of Rotary International, 110 years ago. Bill, Diane and Bryce set up both HF and VHF stations at Wyong. Bill used his newfangled Apache Labs ANAN 100D SDR transceiver which drew interest from visiting hams. Brian VK2BX, a Rotarian and a ham, found our ROAR stand at the field day and is now a member of ROAR and net participant from time to time.

Bill, Diane and Phil also attended the Wireless Institute of Australia Annual General Meeting which was held in Canberra on 8, 9 and 10 May to represent ROAR and enjoy the presentations and the fellowship.
We all look forward to continuing with the Sunday and Tuesday nets and meeting our European friends. I personally would like to join a ROAR net with our US and Canadian members. Maybe this is something to work on over the next year.

73’s for now

Phil VK2MCB

RI International Convention Seoul 2016

Past DG Jae-Ho Kim HL4CCM has arranged for the Special Event Call HL16RI to be active during the Convention and operating remotely from the ROAR Booth in the Hall of Friendship.

Website

The website is maintained by Bill VK4ZD and each week a report on the nets is compiled by John G3OKT and uploaded to the internet.

John would appreciate any reports of ROAR nets for inclusion.

The net times, frequencies & net controllers can be found on the website and in the reports.

Apart from VK/ZL, Europe and Japan we haven’t had any other reports to include recently.

Please send your items for inclusion in the next newsletter to editor@ifroar.org

New Vice-President for USCB West

Our thanks to Ken Demaray (W8SOO) who, after many years in the role, has stepped down as Vice-President USCB West. Ken has been active on the Atlantic net and more recently in contact with past President Pertti (EA7GSU).

The Vice-presidency for USCB West is an important role in ROAR and will combine with USCB East to support the 2017 Rotary Convention in Atlanta where the fellowship will be represented. USCB West covers the Western regions of Canada and the USA.

Congratulations and thanks to Stephen Bloom KL7SB, RC of Anchorage Midtown, Alaska for stepping into the role.